COMMUNITY

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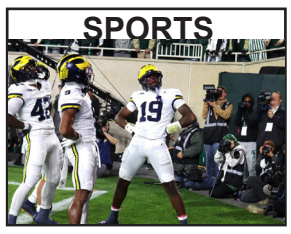
EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

SPORTS



Page 10 - Wolverines Win 4th in a Row vs Sparty

Michigan's #1, Oldest, Largest and Only Bilingual Hispanic News • Free! ¡Gratis! • Vol. 36, #52 • October 30, 2025

¡Wilson Park abre oficialmente para alegría de miles!

Se calcula que unas 30 mil personas de toda la comunidad se reunieron el sábado 25 de octubre para acompañar al Detroit Riverfront Conservancy en la gran inauguración del Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park, el nuevo espacio público que se suma a la red de parques y senderos a lo largo del galardonado Detroit Riverfront.

Además de celebrar la apertura de Ralph Wilson Park, la Conservancy realizó su popular Detroit Harvest Fest durante el fin de semana en el nuevo parque. El festival incluyó una presentación estelar de The Jacksons, 40 grupos musicales locales, dulces para los niños, más

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Wilson Park Officially Opens to the Delight of Thousands!

Thousands attend opening day. Photo by Nadir Ali for Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. Inset by Alejandro Ugalde.

An estimated 30 thousand people from throughout the community gathered last Saturday, October 25 to help the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy celebrate the grand opening of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park, the latest public space featuring parks and greenways to open along the award-winning Detroit Riverfront.

In addition to marking the grand opening of Ralph Wilson Park, the Conservancy also celebrated its popular Detroit Harvest Fest over the two day weekend at the new park. Harvest Fest featured a headlining performance by The Jacksons, 40 local music acts, trick or treating for the

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Alliance Catholic Credit Union Earns Prestigious National Juntos Avanzamos Designation

Alliance Catholic Credit Union (ACCU) has announced that it has earned the prestigious national Juntos Avanzamos (Together We Advance) designation from Inclusiv. This recognition is a national mark of excellence for credit unions that demonstrate a deep commitment to serving and empowering Hispanic and immigrant communities with safe, affordable, and relevant financial services and education.

To celebrate this significant achievement, Alliance Catholic Credit Union hosted a proclamation ceremony attended by an Inclusiv representative, community partners, and staff. The event highlighted the credit union's mission-driven dedication to financial inclusion and empowerment for the Hispanic community across Michigan.

"We are very honored to have earned this prestigious award and this national designation from Inclusiv," said Rob Grech, President and CEO of Alliance Catholic Credit Union. "This designation reflects our unwavering commitment to providing Hispanic and immigrant communities with safe, affordable, and relevant financial services, along with financial education. We started this journey several years ago rooted in the simple philosophy of People Helping People".

The Juntos Avanzamos designation is awarded to credit unions that undergo a rigorous evaluation of their operations, including account opening procedures, lending practices, marketing strategies, partnerships, and community outreach. ACCU demonstrated a strong commitment to serving Latinos throughout Michigan with tailored offerings of products and services, such as ITIN loans and community financial wellness programs.

Anthony Luevanos, VP of Business Development, Alliance Catholic Credit Union, Rob Grech, President/CEO, Alliance Catholic Credit Union, Megan Bolado, Director of Learning and Inclusion, Inclusiv, Juana Saavedra, Business Development Manager, Alliance Catholic Credit Union, Daniel Davidson, COO/Executive Vice President, Alliance Catholic Credit Union

In addition, over 25% of their employees are now bilingual.

Megan Bolado, Director of Learning and Inclusion at Inclusiv, formally presented the designation. "This recognition highlights Alliance Catholic Credit Union's commitment to serving Hispanic and Latino communities in this state," Bolado said. "This designation enables credit unions to identify and eliminate barriers that keep these communities from accessing mainstream financial services, thus protecting them from fringe financial services and predatory lenders. Alliance Catholic Credit Union has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving Latinos in Michigan."

The success of ACCU's mission is reinforced by their strong community partnerships. Roberto Nicolas Vazquez, Consul of Mexico in Detroit, praised the credit union's efforts. "The cooperation we have with Alliance Catholic has been very successful. We work together to bring financial education to the community, helping them learn how to open accounts and build credit. This partnership is vital to avoiding the financial tragedies that occur when people lack access to banking."

Other key community partners spoke about the impact of the collaboration during the announcement program.

Evelyn Najera -Duran, Executive Director of La Casa Guadalupana, noted, "Alliance Catholic was the first financial institution to believe in what we do and to invest in our students. Thanks to their financial literacy

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ACCU Earns Juntos Avanzamos Designation

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workshops, many of our students have learned how to budget, save, and even start building their credit, skills that will serve them for the rest of their lives."

Luz Acosta, Director of La Casa Amiga Community Programs at Catholic Charities of Southeast

Michigan, shared, "Alliance Catholic Credit Union was the very first financial institution to believe in our

'Latinos in Finance' program. It is not just about offering products in Spanish — it is about building trust, providing guidance, and treating every person with respect regardless of where they come from. Tonight's recognition is well deserved, and it gives our community hope."

Alliance Catholic Credit Union joins a growing network of institutions committed to advancing financial inclusion nationwide by building economic opportunity in underserved communities.

Alliance Catholic Credit Union serves the Catholic community throughout the state of Michigan. There are 12 branch locations, including Allen Park, Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Madonna University, Rochester, Shelby Township, Sterling Heights, Southwest Detroit, Taylor, Troy, West Bloomfield, and the University of Detroit Mercy.

Alliance Catholic Credit Union Team and Community Partners, Administrative office in Farmington Hills, MI

About Alliance Catholic Credit Union

Chartered in 1956, Alliance Catholic Credit Union is a $644 million financial cooperative serving over 32,000 member owners. Any person of the Catholic faith living, working, worshipping or attending school in the state of Michigan, any person who is a student, faculty or alumni of a Catholic University in the State of Michigan, any person who is an employee or pensioner of a Catholic healthcare system located in the state of Michigan or any person who is a member of Alliance Catholic Foundation is eligible to become a member of Alliance Catholic Credit Union. Alliance Catholic Credit Union actively supports Catholic schools, parishes and organizations.

Remembering far from home:

MSU Latin American Students Begin Day of the Dead Celebration

Article and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

Marigold flowers and small skulls were placed on a small table, which receives photographs of deceased relatives from anyone who wishes to place theirs. Candles, snacks, and drinks also adorned the table as part of the offerings, filling every space on the table. This is the altar built by Michigan State University Latin American students for the Day of the Dead celebration.

Alejandra Granados, a Salvadoran PhD student in physics, has been bringing her father's photo every year since she began studying at MSU three years ago. "I forgot his favorite things this time, but I still want him to be here, like every year," Alejandra said.

On Friday, October 24, the Latino organization, Comunidad, in collaboration with the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), hosted a coffee hour at the International Center to unveil the altar, which will remain open to the public for a week. Dozens of students and community members contributed photos and spent time together sharing, teaching, and learning about the significance of the celebration.

The Day of the Dead isn't a tradition originally celebrated in the United States; it is primarily celebrated in several Latin American countries on the first days of November.

In some places, like Mexico, Ecuador, and Peru, the celebration takes more than one day, where people visit their deceased loved ones in cemeteries accompanied by music and food, in addition to family and communal altars in houses, schools, and work.

Through this celebration, international students maintain their connection with their traditions during their years studying and working abroad.

"It's like being able to bring a little piece of your home with you wherever you go," said Ana Ponce, a Mexican PhD student in Hispanic Cultural Studies, who brought the photo of her maternal grandfather to the altar.

"I think the feeling is a little bit bitter and sweet because you feel close to your culture, to your family, to your home, but at the same time, you feel the distance. It's something that I miss a lot from my country," she explained.

This semester, foreign students represent 8.8% of the total MSU population, according to MSU data, and these events have great significance. According to Comunidad vice-president, Luis Torres, it helps to teach about these traditions to the public and create stronger bonds among students from different backgrounds.

"This is a region where there aren't a lot of Latin Americans compared to other states. So, the challenge to find us is bigger, but we'll always find the way," Torres said. "However, this is important as a space of sharing for the international community, not only Latin Americans."

According to a State News report, the international student population at MSU has steadily declined over the past decade. Furthermore, the hostile environment created by the federal government toward international students, such as the temporary suspension of student visa interviews during the summer, the termination of visa records in the spring, and the issuance of fewer visas before the start of the school year, may have contributed to the 3.8% decline this fall semester.

Christian Yañez, OISS International Student Advisor, emphasized that despite the tense political environment surrounding international students, OISS will continue to support them through funding, spaces for cultural events, and advice on their future decisions.

"I know there's a lot of anxiety about what's being experienced, heard, and seen, but we try to remind them that we're here to support them," said Yañez. "International students contribute so much academically, culturally, and socially. Spaces like this are meant exactly for that, to encourage cultural exchange within the community."

Alejandra Granados, middle left, brings a photo of her father to an alter commemorating ancestors.

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

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Mujeres in Business: Michigan Edition 2025 Launch

Latina Women Redefining the Business Industry Across Michigan

By Stephanie Sanchez | Photos by Mariliz Flores

The official release of the book *Mujeres in Business: Michigan Edition 2025* was held last Thursday, October 23 at Wayne State University's Student Activities Center. It was not just a book release, but a showcase of Latina resilience, strength, and leadership. The contributors to the creation of this book, and their supporters, gathered for a night of celebrating their success and experiences. Guests of the event were first greeted with goodie bags filled with merchandise by the entrepreneurs' businesses, as well as refreshments and welcoming smiles that set the tone for the evening. There was laughter and familiarity in the room as people hugged, took photos, and shared their excitement for the launch of the second edition of *Mujeres in Business*.

From Mexico City, anthologist of Mujeres in Business Isabel Flores greeted guests to kickoff the event. With a mix of passions that led her to be a journalist, businesswoman, and technology enthusiast, she curated *Mujeres in Business* with the objective of documenting the success stories of women who are revolutionizing the world through entrepreneurship. Along with other achievements, she is also the owner of Guía Consultiva, a digital marketing firm that is part of HispanoUSA. The event was proudly sponsored by the Consulate of Mexico in Detroit and the Office of International Programs at Wayne State University, a collaboration of academic and diplomatic institutions.

Dr. Reyna Esquivel-King, a Professor of History at Wayne State University's Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, presented remarks emphasizing the need to capture these stories that are significant to Michigan's cultural and economic history. Mexican Consul Roberto Nicolás Vazquez and Colombia Consul Diego Alexander Angula Martínez (based in Chicago), both in attendance, delivered warm messages also emphasizing the importance of empowering women and Latina entrepreneurs.

Everyone took their seats and a video presentation featuring this year's celebrated women was played, which set the stage for individual and personal reflections afterwards.

Spotlighting the businesswomen

Mujeres in Business: Michigan Edition 2025 features the story of 15 inspiring Latina entrepreneurs and leaders across Michigan:

- **Evangelina Abundis Ruvalcaba** – Founder of El Globo Restaurant
- **Jennifer Aparicio** – Real Estate Professional
- **Nancy Arredondo** – Founder of A&R Consulting Group, PLLC
- **Rosalba Ayala Pantoja** – Founder of R' Rosa's Cleaning Company
- **Jacqueline Cuevas** – Owner of Junction Party Store
- **Judith Díaz** – Owner of Supermercado La Victoria
- **Marian Esnoval** – Owner of Cafetal Coffee
- **Yolanda Franco** – Direct Sales Leader
- **Scarlett Idema** – Founder of Medicina Scarlett
- **Clarivel Martínez** – Founder of Tata's Day Care
- **Anakarina Piña** – Founder of Be Fit Runners
- **Brenda Ponce** – Financial Services Professional
- **Carolina Puerta-Estevez** – Founder of HR-BIS and Owner of Puerta Tours
- **Alma Valenzuela** – Founder of Almassage Therapy
- **Brenda Karina Yañez** – Owner of KNE Beauty & Spa

Jennifer Aparicio stated "I realized you do not have to wait for the perfect moment to do something. Do it with fear, but do it." Each one of their stories create a motivational collection, proving how Latina women work diligently to build Michigan's business environment with passion and creativity. Scarlett Idema also reflected "When I began writing my chapter, it was healing for me. Immigrant women are not just surviving—we are thriving and creating. It reminds us that dreams have no borders." As the evening came to an end, entrepreneurs conversed with attendees during the book signing of the event. They posed for photos and celebrated, as they created opportunities for networking relationships.

The launch of Mujeres in Business: Michigan Edition 2025 was a celebration for the highlighted entrepreneurs, and a powerful confirmation of the resilience and strength of Latina women who are reshaping leadership and success in Michigan, and beyond.

Stephanie Sanchez is a Graphic Design and Digital Specialist at EL CENTRAL Hispanic News, passionate about using design to find solutions and give back to the community. She is an enthusiast of multidisciplinary art and creative expression.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

L-R Roberto Nicolas Vazquez Consul of Mexico in Detroit, Isabel Flores Romero, and Diego Alexander Angula Martínez Consul on Columbia in Chicago

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https://www.mujeresinbiz.com/

Southwest Detroit Residents Press Mayor Duggan on Transit and Blight Issues

Written and photos by Estefania Arellano-Bermudez

Last Wednesday evening, October 22, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan was at Kingdom Apostolic Ministries on Fort Street to meet with residents of District 6 for a charter-mandated community meeting.

"Tonight is not a night to talk about the governor's campaign, the mayor's campaign, the city council. Tonight you talk about issues that you have in your neighborhood," Mayor Duggan said.

This was the last of the charter-mandated meetings for Mayor Duggan, who is currently running as an independent candidate in Michigan's governor race in 2026. In this forum, attendees were invited to ask questions and request city resources for issues affecting their neighborhood and them as residents of District 6 in Southwest Detroit.

At the meeting, residents offered a mix of gratitude, frustration, and impassioned requests. Duggan and his staff responded in real time, with the mayor calling out department heads mid-meeting to promise investigations or solutions. The 45-minute session reflected both the progress and the lingering challenges that still remain to be resolved in the city.

As with anything political, there were differing opinions on the mayor's efforts. Most dramatic among the opinions expressed at the meeting was offered by an attendee dressed as a character from the world of Alice in Wonderland.

Resident Joanne Warwick dressed up as the "Mad Hatter" to forcefully ask why the city was developing large solar fields instead of rooftop installations on city buildings. Even though the website for the City of Detroit states that it is the City's goal to power all of the city's municipal buildings by 2034, the topic became contentious.

"A rooftop gets you a few solar panels. An acre gets you enough solar panels to power 137 city buildings," Duggan said.

This was only one of a handful of tense moments.

Jahdante Smith waited in the microphone line and slammed the mayor for his gubernatorial run, sarcastically thanking him for "coming out as a Republican".

"He came out to be Republican and he stopped hiding behind the Democrat Party. He has not done anything for the Black or Brown community. Our city has come a positive way for big development but not for residents of the city of Detroit," Smith elaborated after the event.

Beyond these moments, residents raised concerns about the transportation system such as lack of benches at bus stops, inconsistent service, and negative bus driver interactions. Residents noted the current bus delays and inadequate shelters from Michigan's unforgiving weather.

"I'm 63 and I can't keep [standing] at buses," said Tracy from District 5.

According to the DDOT 2023 Title VI Onboard Survey Report, 19% of riders are 58 or older. Benches are an important and necessary addition to bus stops.

The issue of bus scarcity came up at the meeting. Mayor Duggan announced that the city of Detroit currently has 180 buses in service on the roads, and 45 new buses have been purchased by his administration. He credits Governor Gretchen Whitmer's recently passed FY 26 Budget, which includes a $160 million investment in public transit. The budget will redirect gas and sales tax revenues toward roads and public transit.

In an emotional plea, Mary Perry, a senior who lives downtown, stepped up to the microphone with photographs of mold creeping across her apartment walls.

"[The landlord] won't fix anything," Mary Perry said. "They're trying to force us out."

Duggan called on his staff to intervene. City attorneys confirmed that while some units in her building are protected as affordable housing, others are being converted to market rate. This has been increasingly common as rents in Downtown Detroit continue to rise.

"If they're using failure to maintain the building to push people out, we need a legal response," Duggan said. "We're going to make sure you're treated okay."

Throughout the evening, city officials committed to respond to environmental complaints, transit issues, and housing code violations. As the meeting came to a close, a resident bid farewell to Mayor Duggan's final charter-mandated meeting with an expression of gratitude to Mayor Duggan and his staff.

"Everyone that has touched my life – I can't call you all by name, but I want to thank you from my heart for what you meant in my world and my city."

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Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Resident Joanne Warwick dressed up as the "Mad Hatter" to pose her question to Mayor Duggan about solar panels in the city

Mayor Duggan's last charter-mandated community meeting of his administration was held in District 6 in Southwest Detroit

Detroit City Stadium Benefits Agreement Approved by Neighborhood Council

By Santiago Esparza

The Detroit City Football Club has forged an agreement with an advisory council as one of the last steps to secure $88 million in tax breaks for a new stadium, housing and a parking deck in Southwest Detroit.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) approved the agreement, which calls for safety measures, $17 an hour stadium jobs and $1.2 million over 12 years for home repairs and cultural offerings in the area around the stadium. In all, dozens of requests were agreed to by team owners.

The Detroit City Council will vote on the agreement and once approved by that body it then it becomes official. If the tax breaks are approved, the team will not get them until the development project on Michigan Avenue near 20th Street is completed.

"It was not hard to get where we landed," said Danny Patton, an alternate member of the NAC. "There was no shortage of passion."

The NAC was not able to secure daycare for stadium workers or a $1 surcharge on every ticket for home repairs in the area. They also could not persuade the team to pay up front the money for repairs and cultural offerings.

Sean Mann, cofounder of the team and the team spokesman, said the funds for home repairs and cultural offerings could not be offered up front due to the difficulties of getting the project built.

There are no direct public funds being used for the project and there needs to be a cushion for inevitable cost overruns, Mann said. The club also will pay property taxes once the project is completed.

"This is an incredibly capital heavy project," Mann said. "This is not an easy town to do a development in. We can't do more (funding for repairs) up front."

Parking likely will be an issue. The city requires 2,500 parking spots for games or other events at venues the size of the proposed 15,000 seat venue. Mann said he has obtained at least that many spots.

Neighbors said that is not enough parking for the large number of fans that will descend upon the stadium on game days or other events. The agreement does not force the team to add significantly more parking spots. But the team will offer an incentive for fans to carpool, bike or walk to the stadium.

Sheila Cockrel is a member of the NAC and a former member of the Detroit City Council. She also served on a NAC for the Michigan Central project. She said the team may be biting off more than it can chew. She voted against the agreement.

"The proposal is unrealistic," she said.

In a statement, Cockrel said resident concerns about parking were not given adequate attention.

"The current parking proposal is unrealistic and fails to reflect Corktown's congestion …" she said. "Residents have repeatedly voiced this – and their experiences deserve more acknowledgement."

The NAC met during September and October to hammer out the agreement. In addition to their weekly meetings, members met in the community and sought input from people living in the areas around the proposed project.

Aaron Goodman of the city's Planning and Development Department conducted the weekly NAC meetings. He praised the job done by the NAC and the long hours invested in getting an agreement drafted. The NAC members conducted more than 300 additional hours of meetings outside of their weekly sessions.

"You took a parttime job you maybe didn't want," he said to the NAC members at their last meeting. "You did a wonderful job."

The Detroit City Council can approve the agreement outright or demand changes. The NAC is part of the city's Community Benefits Ordinance that requires the establishment of such a group if a developer is seeking to build a project and obtain more than $1 million in tax breaks.

Patton said the agreement calls for studies of traffic safety, parking and related issues once the stadium is completed. He said you cannot put a dollar figure on the impact of looking at how things shake out once the project is completed.

"To me, that gets lost in the shuffle," he said. "It is going to be important."

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Santiago Esparza is a Detroit-based freelance writer. He is a native of Southwest Detroit.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Detroit Public Theatre Opens Season with Haunting U.S. Premiere of Here There Are Blueberries

By Amber Ogden

Detroit Public Theatre (DPT) recently launched its 11th season with a production that positions the city at the forefront of American theater. The opening play, Here There Are Blueberries, was conceived by Venezuelan-born Moisés Kaufman and written by Kaufman and Amanda Gronich. This acclaimed drama unearths a startling piece of World War II history while probing humanity's capacity for both cruelty and conscience.

Directed by Amy Marie Seidel and produced in partnership with Gary L. Wasserman and Wasserman Projects, this staging marks the first licensed production of the play in the United States outside of the Tectonic Theater Project's own tour. For DPT, a company known for its bold storytelling and civic-minded work, it's a moment of both artistic honor and cultural responsibility.

At the heart of Here There Are Blueberries lies a mystery: in 2007, a photo album filled with never-before-seen images from Auschwitz arrives at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The photographs, captured not by victims but by Nazi officers, document the daily lives of the perpetrators who worked and lived near the concentration camp.

"If you're a Holocaust denier, this play shows you the photographs of these people doing what we all know they did," Kaufman said.

"The play is a detective story, a mysterious album arrives at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and we have to figure out what it can tell us about what happened in that historical moment, and what it can tell us about us as human beings, living in society. I think that one of the things that we explore in the play is the difference between culpability, complicity and complacency."

As curators piece together the story behind the album, they uncover unsettling truths about the ordinariness of evil and how humanity's darkest chapters are preserved in plain sight. The play, based on true events, dramatizes the museum's investigation with a careful balance of empathy, precision, and moral tension.

The Los Angeles Times hailed the original Tectonic Theater Project production as "the greatest detective story ever written." At the same time, journalist Anderson Cooper described it as "a play that makes all of us ask the question, what am I capable of doing?"

Those are the questions Detroit Public Theatre wants audiences to wrestle with. Sarah Clare Corporandy, one of DPT's founding Producing Artistic Directors, noted that when the opportunity to work with Tectonic Theater Project arose, DPT was deeply honored and inspired.

"This piece is fascinating and profoundly relevant. It invites us to consider both the past and the present, and ask ourselves what we are capable of," Corporandy said.

Founded by Kaufman in 1991, Tectonic Theater Project is celebrated for its boundary-pushing documentary theatre, including The Laramie Project and Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde. Kaufman, who received the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama, is known for blending investigative storytelling with emotional honesty, crafting works that probe the moral complexities of real-world events.

Playwright and co-creator Amanda Gronich, an original Tectonic member and Emmy-nominated television writer, helped shape the company's signature "moment work" method. This approach turns documentary evidence into theatrical movement and dialogue.

Together, Kaufman and Gronich developed Here There Are Blueberries as a collaboration between Tectonic Theater Project and La Jolla Playhouse, where it premiered to national acclaim.

The Detroit production features a cast of accomplished local and regional performers: Eric Gutman, Diane Hill, Artun Kircali, Kate McClaine, Sam Reeder, Cheryl Turski, Ron Williams, and veteran actress Rebecca Rose Mims, who started with Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit.

Mims, who plays Charlotte, emphasized that the play's moral is that anyone can be complicit in genocide. And it's not only what you do, it's what you don't do. Not only what you say, it's what you don't say, what you choose to ignore.

"There's a lot that's happening in the world that's happening outside America," Mims said.

"There are a lot of killings and murders happening inside America, and there are so many ways to support or make other people aware."

For a play that deals so intimately with visual documentation, Here There Are Blueberries is as much about the ethics of looking as it is about history itself. It challenges audiences to confront how images, especially those of suffering, are used, interpreted, and remembered.

Corporandy believes that question is as urgent now as ever.

Detroit Public Theatre hopes the production will serve as both an artistic and communal experience, a chance for audiences to reflect on the fragility of memory and the endurance of empathy.

Director and Playwright (R) Moisés Kaufman. Credit-Nicholas Jamora

Now, Detroit audiences will experience the play through the lens of DPT's own creative team and ensemble of Michigan-based actors.

"We're inviting our community to experience Here There Are Blueberries together, to have brave and essential conversations," Corporandy said.

"Let's wrestle with history and the present through this story and consider how we will meet this moment."

Here There Are Blueberries will run through Sunday, November 2, at 2 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit www.detroitpublictheatre.org.

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Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, EATER Detroit, Visit Detroit, and the Michigan Chronicle. She enjoys art and loves to find new (and old) cool things in the city in her free time.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Here There Are Blueberries Play, actress Rebecca Rose Mims (right front). Credit-David Shocket

Here There Are Blueberries Play Poster Opening Night. Credit-Jeromy Hopgood

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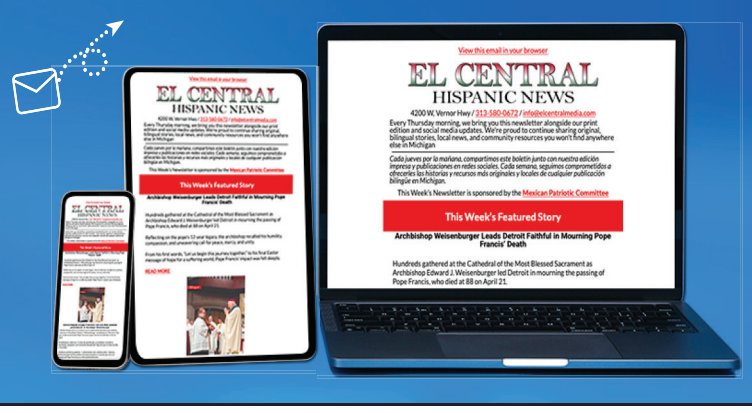

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Celebration of Life Honors Richard Gutierrez, Founder of Hacienda Mexican Foods

More than 140 guests gathered last Sunday evening at the El Zocalo Lounge in Southwest Detroit to celebrate the life of Richard Gutierrez, founder of Hacienda Mexican Foods. The October 26 celebration, hosted by his wife Lydia Gutierrez (President & CEO of Hacienda) and their sons Gabriel (owner/operator of Donut Villa) and Michael (EL CENTRAL Digital Content Manager), returned the family to the same space where Richard and Lydia ran their first office in the early 1990s, a full-circle moment for a business that outlasted its founder.

Richard Gutierrez (born Ricardo), who founded Hacienda Mexican Foods in the early 1990s, died October 21, 2005 in Indianapolis at age 51. Today, the company employs over 80 workers and supplies its 313 Urban tortilla and chip line to all Meijer stores and Kroger locations throughout the Midwest. Among those employees was Tina Quintanilla, Richard and Lydia's very first employee, who still works there alongside her daughter Cristina. Both were in attendance with their families at the celebration that drew family and friends from California, Arizona, Illinois, and Puerto Rico.

Many of Richard's ten grandchildren heard their grandfather's voice for the first time through home videos played throughout the evening. Richard's daughters Lori DiLisio and Nichole Gutierrez were in attendance along with Lydia's brother and longtime Hacienda employee Hector Bermudez, and Raquel Lozano, co-owner of Mexicantown's El Popo Market with her husband Rodolfo, Richard's first cousin.

Richard's path to entrepreneurship runs through three generations of Detroit's Mexican food industry. His grandfather Rafael sold his frito stand in San Antonio, Texas for $100 to Elmer Doolin, who would later create the business that merged to become Frito-Lay. After moving north, Rafael started La Michoacana, Michigan's first and oldest tortilla manufacturing company, which still operates today. Richard worked there as a teenager before launching his own venture, building Hacienda into a Midwest distribution force honoring his family's roots in Zamora, Michoacán.

A 12-minute video montage made from tens of hours of VHS-C cassette tape served as the emotional climax of the evening

"I thought I knew the business because I'd worked alongside Richard since we were dating in the late '80s," Lydia said. "But stepping into his shoes meant re-learning everything from the ground up, and I was doing it while Michael and Gabriel were 11 and 13, needing their mom while I was trying to figure out how to be the leader Richard had been."

The five-hour gathering moved deliberately between levity and grief, from the high-energy Kahoot trivia and Richard's hilarious getaway driver story to quieter moments during the video montage and candlelight vigil. It was a carefully choreographed evening that honored both his humor and the weight of his absence. Family members and longtime friends shared reflections throughout the evening, with speakers including his stepdaughter Natalie Lovato, nephews Daniel Gutierrez (President of Mexican Food Specialties) and Adrian Bermudez, Gabriel and Michael Gutierrez, Richard's best friend and former longtime employee Gustavo Sandoval, and longtime business consultant Don Reimer, who led the candlelight vigil.

Michael spent nearly a year digitizing over 25 VHS-C cassettes and editing tens of hours of footage for the celebration. "My main goal for the evening was for people to leave with a clearer understanding of who my dad was," he said. "He was a great storyteller, supremely dedicated to his craft, and an excellent provider for his family. I think beyond our family business, his legacy lives on in how we live our lives."

Mariachi Cristal played during dinner service provided by Taqueria El Rey's Danny Fuentes and Manuel Lara. Flowers were arranged by Patrick Fitzgerald, the same florist who supplied arrangements for Richard and Lydia's 1990 wedding and Richard's 2005 funeral. The evening closed with a touching video montage spanning Richard's life, followed by the candle lighting ceremony, before guests departed with keepsakes including Christmas ornaments featuring his photo, matchboxes, and hand-painted planters.

"People ask what my dad would think of Donut Villa or Michael's work as a filmmaker," Gabriel said. "But I think he'd care less about what we're doing and more about how we're doing it. Are we keeping our word, treating people right, staying committed when it's hard. Those are the values he lived by. That's what we're trying to honor."

Photo credit: Caitlin Dewicki

Lydia Gutierrez with family

L-R Marcela Cervantes, Lydia Gutierrez, and Brenda Albores of Hacienda Mexican Foods

Michael D. Gutierrez, Richard and Lydia's son

Flowers and photos were on display to honor the life of Richard Gutierrez

Fellow family member Pastor Roberto Bobby Flores delivers a humorous yet heartfelt speech followed by prayer to kick off the celebration of life

L-R Richard's three daughters, Nichole Gutierrez, Natalie Lovato, and Lori DiLisio

Gustavo Sandoval, Richard's best friend and former employee, walks offstage after delivering a heartfelt speech

A guest points to a photo on a table with photos and keepsakes honoring Richard

Gabriel Gutierrez, Richard and Lydia's son and owner/operator of Donut Villa

L-R Michael D. Gutierrez, Natalie Lovato, Lori DiLisio, Nichole Gutierrez

George Bermudez, Sr., Richard Gutierrez's brother-in-law

Wilson Park abre oficialmente

Con't de pg. 1

de 35 camiones de comida y diversión para toda la familia.

Con 22 acres de extensión, Ralph Wilson Park está llamado a convertirse en uno de los espacios públicos más emblemáticos del país, marcando un nuevo estándar para los parques urbanos gracias a su diseño impulsado por la comunidad, su accesibilidad y sus elementos únicos. Es uno de los proyectos más importantes en los 22 años de historia de esta organización sin fines de lucro. En poco más de dos décadas, el Detroit Riverfront pasó de ser una zona descuidada y deteriorada, con poco o ningún acceso público, a convertirse en un destino reconocido internacionalmente que atrae a más de tres millones de visitantes cada año.

Foto de Alejandro Ugaldi | Kopalli Media

"Ralph Wilson Park es uno de los espacios públicos más icónicos del país y representa un gran paso hacia la realización de nuestra visión de 5.5 millas de acceso público permanente a nuestro río revitalizado," dijo Matt Cullen, presidente de la Junta Directiva del Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. "Nuestra comunidad tiene una enorme deuda de gratitud con la Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation por impulsar esta visión para Detroit, así como con los muchos socios que se unieron para hacerla realidad, incluyendo William Davidson Foundation, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Delta Dental, Erb Foundation, DTE Foundation, y todos los benefactores que hicieron posible este logro."

El parque honra a Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. (1918–2014), un empresario originario de Detroit y filántropo comprometido, fundador y dueño por muchos años del equipo de la NFL Buffalo Bills. Su legado continúa fortaleciendo comunidades a través de la Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

"Este es un momento histórico para presentar por fin Ralph Wilson Park a la comunidad. Ralph amaba su ciudad natal y unir a personas de todos los ámbitos, así como lo hacían sus queridos Buffalo Bills. Estaría maravillado de ver el trabajo en equipo y la colaboración que se dio en toda la comunidad para soñar y construir un parque de clase mundial que lleva su nombre y que, a partir de hoy, recibirá a jóvenes, familias y personas de todas las generaciones," expresó Mary Wilson, Life Trustee & Board Chair de la Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

En el estrado. Foto de Nadir Ali por Detroit Reiverfront Conservancy.

Famosa firma de arquitectura y diseño guiado por la comunidad

El parque fue diseñado por la firma neoyorquina Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, ganadora del concurso internacional de diseño organizado por la Conservancy en 2018.

El diseño del parque lleva las huellas de la comunidad en cada uno de sus 22 acres. La Conservancy organizó más de 100 reuniones, grandes y pequeñas, para compartir su visión y escuchar lo que los residentes querían ver en este nuevo espacio.

Se creó un Community *Activation Team (CAT)* compuesto por 22 miembros de la comunidad de distintos orígenes.

Fernando Cuellar, estudiante de Western International High School, inaguró el evento reconociendo los orígenes indígenas del sitio del parque. Foto de City of Detroit.

El equipo CAT viajó a Nueva York, Chicago y Filadelfia para conocer parques de clase mundial y conversar con las personas que los dirigen. Con esas experiencias, ayudaron a orientar el diseño de Ralph Wilson Park y sirvieron como embajadores del proyecto dentro de la comunidad, conectando con familiares, amistades y vecinos.

Además, estudiantes de primaria de escuelas de Detroit participaron en un taller dirigido por Monstrom, un diseñador de juegos infantiles con sede en Dinamarca. Dos de las estructuras del Play Garden fueron construidas a partir de los diseños de esos estudiantes. Jóvenes de preparatoria y universidad también colaboraron en talleres de diseño con Michael Van Valkenburgh y su equipo.

Cuatro espacios únicos dentro del parque

Este parque de clase mundial alberga cuatro grandes atracciones: el Delta Dental Play Garden, el Huron-Clinton Metroparks Water Garden de 2.5 acres, el DTE Foundation Summit y el William Davidson Sport House.

La apertura del parque y de dos nuevos tramos del Riverwalk al este representan un paso clave hacia la realización de la visión de la Conservancy: dos millas de costa revitalizada en el West Riverfront. La meta final es transformar 5.5 millas del río, desde el Ambassador Bridge hasta el MacArthur Bridge en Belle Isle. La sección de 3.5 millas del East Riverfront se completó en 2023.

Denise Kennedy, residente de Northwest Detroit, fue la última oradora del programa de inauguración y habló en nombre del CAT. "Queríamos escribir una carta de amor a la ciudad de Detroit, ¡y eso es exactamente este parque! Nos escucharon, y eso es lo que significa la verdadera equidad. ¡Estamos emocionados de declarar oficialmente abierto el Ralph C. Wilson Park!"

Fotos de Nick Hagen for Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

Bailarines folclóricos. Foto de Alejandro Ugalde | Kopalli Media

Wilson Park está abierto todos los días de 6 a.m. a 10 p.m. Para más información sobre el Detroit Riverfront Conservancy o sobre la revitalización del Detroit Riverfront, visita www.detroitriverfront.org.

Frase destacada:
Ralph Wilson Park es la más reciente adición de espacio público a lo largo del galardonado Detroit Riverfront y se espera que sea uno de los parques más emblemáticos del país.

Wilson Park Officially Opens

Continued from page 1

kids, more than 35 food trucks and family-friendly fun.

The 22-acre Ralph Wilson Park is anticipated to be among the most iconic public spaces in the country and sets a new standard for urban parks with its community-led design, accessibility and unique features. It is one of the Conservancy's most significant projects in the nonprofit's 22-year history. In a little more than two decades, the Detroit Riverfront has gone from a neglected, blighted stretch of land with little to no public access to an internationally-acclaimed destination that draws more than three million people annually.

"Ralph Wilson Park is one of the most iconic public spaces in the country and represents a massive step towards the completion of our vision for 5.5 miles of perpetual public access to our revitalized riverfront," said Matt Cullen, chairman of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Board of Directors. "Our community owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation for launching this vision for Detroit, as well as to the many partners that joined them in turning this vision into a reality, such as William Davidson Foundation, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Delta Dental, Erb Foundation, DTE Foundation, and all of the other benefactors who have made this achievement possible."

The Park honors Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. (1918–2014), a Detroit native and successful entrepreneur, who was the founder and longtime owner of the NFL's Buffalo Bills, as well as a dedicated philanthropist whose legacy continues to enhance communities through the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

"This is a landmark moment to finally introduce Ralph Wilson Park to the community. Ralph loved his hometown and bringing people together from all walks of life, just as his beloved Buffalo Bills did throughout his life. He would have been in awe of the teamwork and collaboration that has taken place across this entire community to dream up and build a world-class park that carries his name and from today forward will welcome youth, families and individuals for generations to come," said Mary Wilson, Life Trustee & Board Chair, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

Renowned Architecture Firm and Community-Led Design

The park is designed by New York-based Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, which won an international design competition that the Conservancy hosted in 2018.

The design of the park has the fingerprints of community members throughout its 22 acres. The Conservancy hosted more than 100 meetings both large and small to share its vision for the park and to ask community members what it wanted in a new park.

The Conservancy established the Community Activation Team (CAT) comprised of 22 members of the community from all walks of life.

The CAT team visited New York, Chicago and Philadelphia to visit world-class parks and talk to the people behind them. The team members used those experiences to not only help inform the design of Ralph Wilson Park, but also to serve as ambassadors for the project throughout the community and connect with friends, family and neighbors.

Additionally, elementary students from Detroit elementary schools contributed to a workshop led by Denmark-based playground designer Monstrom. Two of the structures in the Play Garden were built based off of the designs of students. High school and college students also participated in design workshops with Michael Van Valkenburgh and team.

Four Unique Destinations Within the Park

The world-class park will be home to four major attractions, including the Delta Dental Play Garden, the 2.5-acre Huron-Clinton Metroparks Water Garden, the DTE Foundation Summit and the William Davidson Sport House.

The opening of the park and two smaller stretches of Riverwalk just east of it, are a significant step toward completing the Conservancy's vision for two-miles of revitalized waterfront along the West Riverfront. The Conservancy's ultimate vision is 5.5-miles of transformed riverfront from the Ambassador Bridge to the MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle. The 3.5-mile East Riverfront was completed in 2023.

Denise Kennedy, a resident of Northwest Detroit, was the final speaker on the opening program and spoke on behalf of the CAT. "We sought to write a love letter to the city of Detroit, which is what this park is! We (the residents) were heard, and that's what's called 'equity'. We are excited to officially declare Ralph C. Wilson Park now open!"

Wilson Park is open daily from 6am to 10pm. For more information about the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy or the revitalized Detroit Riverfront, visit www.detroitriverfront.org.

30 thousand people from throughout the community celebrate the grand opening of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. Photo by Nadir Ali for Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

David Egner, President and CEO of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation (left) and Denise Kennedy, spokesperson for the Community Advisory Team. Photo by Alejandro Ugaldi | Kopalli Media

The Detroit Piston's mascot shoots the hoop at the William Davidson Sport House. Photo by Nadir Ali for Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

On the playscape. Photo by Nick Hagen for Detroit Riverfront Conservnacy

Members of the Michigan Lion Dance Team perform. Photo by Alejandro Ugalde | Kopalli Media

On the playscape. Photo courtesy of City of Detroit.

Wolverines Take Down Spartans

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Michigan Football on UM GO BLUE, unless otherwise noted

This past Saturday night, under the lights at Spartan Stadium, the University of Michigan Wolverines (6-2) took down the Michigan State Spartans (3-5), 31 - 20.

The Wolverines return to the Big House to host Purdue Boilermakers, on Saturday, November 1st at 7:00 pm (Big Ten Network).

The Wolverines then go on the road to take on Northwestern Wildcats at Wrigley Field, in Chicago, Il, on Saturday, November 15th (TV and Time TBA), then travel to take on Maryland Terrapins, on Saturday, November 22nd (TV and Time TBA), then return to the Big House for their final game of the regular season to host the Ohio State Buckeyes, on Saturday, November 29th at noon (FOX)

The Spartans travel to Minnesota Golden Gophers, on Saturday, November 1st at 3:30 pm (Big Ten Network).

The Spartans then host Penn State Nittany Lions, on Saturday, November 15th (TV and Time TBA), before going on the road to take on Iowa Hawkeyes, on Saturday, November 22nd (TV and Time TBA), then host Maryland Terrapins, at Ford Field, on Saturday, November 29th (TV and Time TBA)

Photos below are highlights from the Wolverines vs. Spartans game, and Media luncheon before the game

Wolverines QB #19 Bryce Underwood, poses as Paul Bunyan, with other players after scoring a touchdown. Underwood was 8 for 17 for 86 yards, and had 5 carries for 26 yards with 1 TD

Wolverines celebrate with Paul Bunyan trophy on the field, after defeating the Spartans in East Lansing

Wolverines RB #22 Justice Haynes scambles past Spartans defense. Haynes had 26 carries for 152 yards with 2 TDs and 3 receptions for 19 yards

Wolverines QB #19 Bryce Underwood scrambles for a touchdown

Detroit Sports Media 17th Annual Big Game Tablegate Media Luncheon, with four of the former best players from Michigan State Spartans and University of Michigan Wolverines. (L-R) Spartans LB Greg Jones, Sprtans OL Conner Kruse, Wolverines FB Jared Wangler, Wolverines OLB Doug Cohen and Paul Bunyan trophy actor. Photo by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Michigan State Spartans getting ready to take the field, during Rivalry Weekend, to take on the University of Michigan Wolverines for the 118th meeting between the two teams, for the Paul Bunyan Trophy

DCFC Squeaks Into The Playoffs

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS SPORTS

Pateando la No. 5

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Detroit City met part of their preseason goal by making the USL Championship playoffs. But, they left it late and needed help from elsewhere to secure a spot in the post-season tournament. Going into the final round of games last weekend, they needed a simple win over the Tampa Bay Rowdies to clinch. They went into the game knowing that Rhode Island had lost the night before, meaning Le Rouge could go past them in the standing and avoid playing Louisville City in the first round.

The Rowdies would have had to beat DCFC by three goals and hope that Indy XI lost to Orange County for them to make the playoffs. Given the stakes, it was no surprise that the first half turned into a cagey affair. Neither team offered much in attack. The vast majority of the play went from side to side around midfield. For spectators, it was dull. Both teams needed some urgency.

DCFC finally made the first move in the 58th minute when Isaiah LeFlore, on loan from the Philadelphia Union of MLS, took a speculative shot from the left side and watched it take a generous deflection past Bill Hamid in the Rowdies' goal. For a defense first team like DCFC, that should have been enough to guarantee the three points and the coveted playoff spot.

However, while Danny Dichio moved his team into an ever more defensive posture, the Rowdies finally showed the urgency lacking from the first hour of the game. They pressed and forced the issue, knowing that their season would likely be ending. DCFC, even in the lead, didn't inspire confidence. Ultimately, it cost them. As the teams entered the final ten minutes of play, the Rowdies equalized from a corner. The scramble in front of goal left Carlos Herrera with no chance to save Woobens Pacius' rising shot from barely seven yards in front of goal.

Having removed Ates Diouf for Jordan Adebayo-Smith and brought on Stephen Carroll, Kobe Hernandez-Foster, and Abdoulaye Diop to shore up defense and midfield, Dichio had no more attacking options to use. Thus, DCFC played for a tie in a game they needed to win to be certain of making the playoffs.

The soccer gods smiled on Le Rouge on this night, though. Orange County also needed to win to clinch a playoff spot in the Western Conference. They scored just after midnight Detroit time and one minute into stoppage time to eliminate Indy XI and lift DCFC into the playoffs. Ousmane Sylla is the man who fired DCFC into the playoffs. He cut in from the left and ripped a powerful strike past Hunter Sulte lifting his home crowd and plenty of DCFC fans, too.

DCFC's reward for qualifying is a trip to Louisville on Saturday to face the best team in the USL Championship. Louisville City finished on top of the league with 73 points. DCFC only picked up 37 points during the 30 match regular season. Louisville goes into the match having won four of their last five games. Detroit City has just one win in the last five. This is a game of teams going in opposite directions.

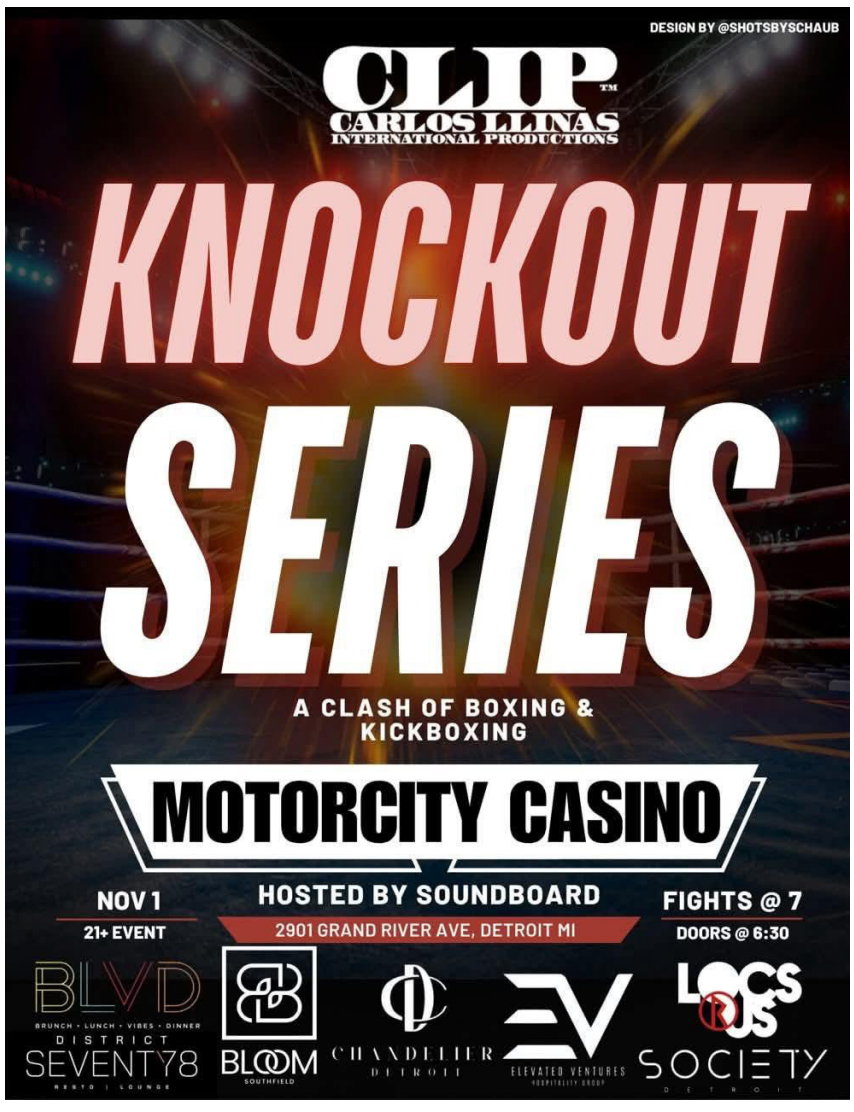
This is however a one-off cup match. Anything can happen. Two years ago, DCFC slipped into the Eastern Conference playoffs as the eighth place team. Thanks to a late goal from Dominic Gasso, DCFC upset the Pittsburgh Riverhounds, 2023's best team in the regular season. Last year, the team finished third, earned a home playoff game, and lost to the Tampa Bay Rowdies in penalty kicks. These single elimination games set up the favorites for upsets.

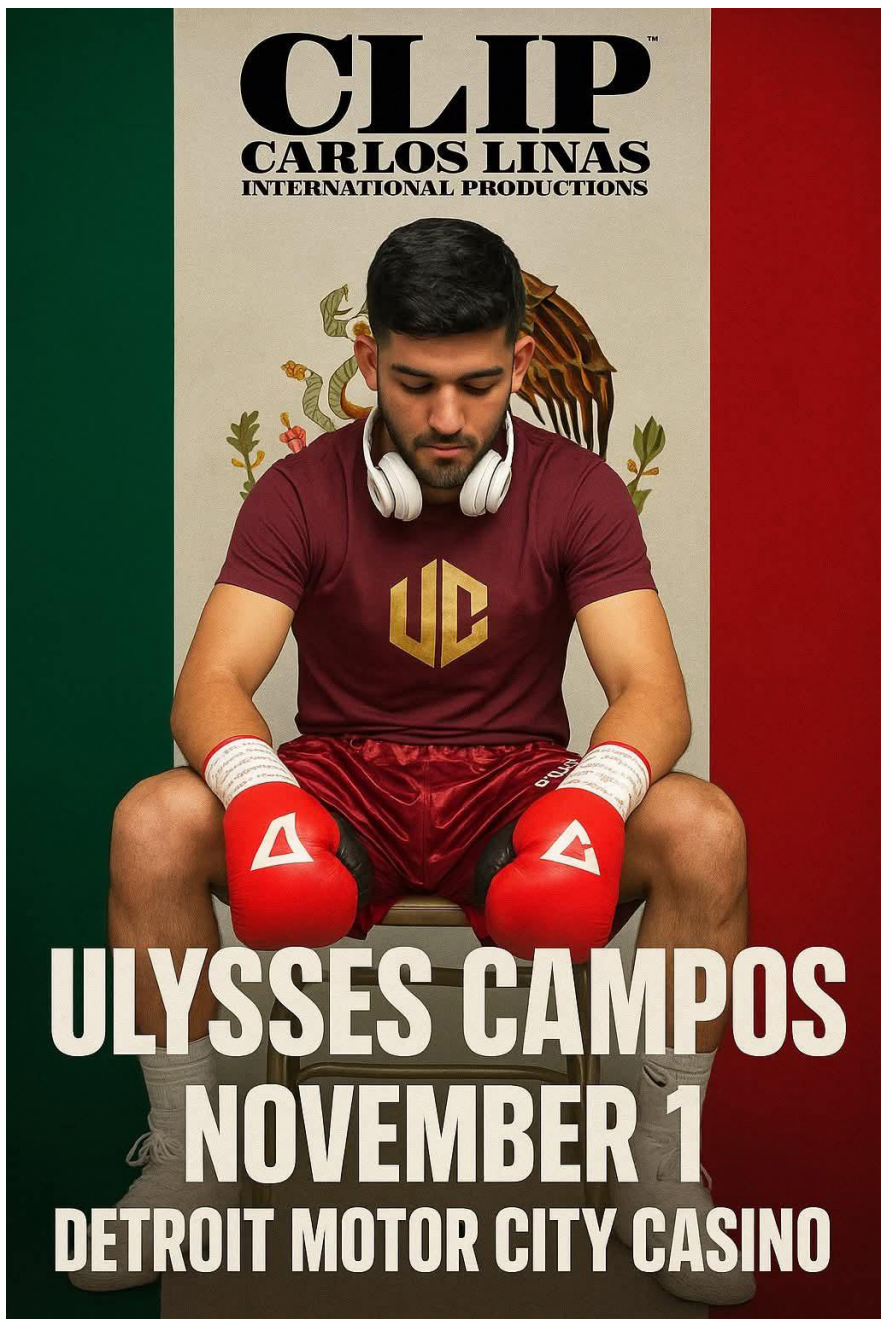
To pull off what would have to be the biggest upset of the year, DCFC will have to play a perfect defensive game and look to pick Louisville off on a counter attack. Captain Stephen Carroll has been on the bench frequently since returning from his knee injury. Can he play 90 or even 120 minutes in defense? What midfield combination would be best suited to contain Louisville's attack. Abdoulaye Diop at his peak can cover a lot of ground. He hasn't been there this year. Kobe Hernandez-Foster has also been coming off the bench after some excellent performances earlier this summer. Can he show that earlier form in the playoffs or will he fade out? Most importantly, can the forwards come up with enough to keep DCFC in the game and maybe nick a win? For the last month, all these questions have been answered negatively. Now, there is a clean slate. They only have to focus on Saturday night in Louisville (7:00pm, CW50).

Boxing and Kickboxing at Motorcity Casino, Saturday, Nov. 1

Tickets for Night of Knockouts XXXVII start at $51 and are available at Ticketmaster and the MotorCity Casino Hotel Box Office.

Night of Knockouts XXXVII start at 7 pm sharp. Shows are age-restricted events, 21+ with valid photo ID. Doors open 1 hour before show times, and guests can enjoy the casino and dining area before doors. All seats are reserved. All bags are subject to inspection by our security team upon entry. All times and lineup are subject to change without notice. Free and convenient self-parking is available.





Early in-person voting starts

By Joe Guillen for Axios Detroit – Republished with permission

Voters in Detroit and several other surrounding cities began in-person voting last Saturday ahead of Election Day on Nov. 4.

Why it matters: Early in-person voting was among the election reforms passed in 2022 to expand voting options and give local election officials more time to process ballots.

- It was a popular and convenient option for last year's presidential election.

By the numbers: Nearly 43,000 Detroiters voted early in person last fall, which was more than 17% of the city's presidential election votes.

Yes, but: Cities are not required to offer the opportunity this year because it is not a statewide or federal election, both of which require at least nine days of early in-person voting.

- Voting jurisdictions that choose to offer the option this year can offer fewer than nine days.

State of play: Detroit — with mayoral, City Council and other races on the ballot — is among dozens of voting jurisdictions across the state with local elections next month.

Zoom in: Detroit will open eight early voting centers from 9am-5pm, Saturday through Nov. 2:

- Adams Butzel Complex, 10500 Lyndon St.
- City Clerk's office at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Ave., Ste. 106
- Clark Park, 1130 Clark Ave.
- Detroit Department of Elections, 2978 W. Grand Blvd.
- Farwell Rec Center, 2711 E. Outer Drive
- Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers Road
- Wayne County Community College - Northwest Campus, 8200 W. Outer Drive
- Wayne County Community College - Eastern Campus, 5901 Conner St.

The big picture: Outside of Detroit, the Secretary of State's list of places with early in-person voting includes Romulus, Livonia, Sterling Heights, Bloomfield Hills, Novi and other cities in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties.

Between the lines: The online Michigan Voter Information Center has everything you need to know about your local elections and early voting options.

- It also has information on registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot and how to find your Election Day polling site.
- You can also contact your local clerk's office for voting information.
- Visit https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index?stream=top#early-voting-search-section

The bottom line: Registered voters can take advantage of the early voting centers, vote by mail, or vote in person on Election Day.

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EL CENTRAL is a weekly publication. The deadline for articles and ads is noon, Monday prior to publication. The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Managing Editor.

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Guest Opinion:

Reflection: We're winning

These are terrible times, to be sure. But we will triumph

By Robert Reich

The resistance is becoming an uprising.

On Saturday, October 18, more than 7 million of us poured into the streets to reject Trump's dictatorship. That's more than 2 percent of the adult population of the United States.

Historical studies suggest that 3.5 percent of a population engaged in sustained nonviolent resistance can topple even the most brutal dictatorships — such as Chile under Pinochet and Serbia under Milosevic.

Which means we're almost there.

Other evidence of the backlash is all around us. Seven of the nine universities Trump selected to join his extortion compact — offering preferential treatment for federal funds in exchange for a pledge to support his agenda — have rejected it.

Most major airports have refused to show Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's propaganda video attacking Democrats for the government shutdown.

Almost all of America's news outlets have refused to sign Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's media loyalty oath.

Trump's destruction of the East Wing of the White House (after promising he wouldn't) and posting an AI video of himself dumping excrement on America is causing even loyal Trumpers to worry he's losing his marbles.

I believe future generations will look back on this scourge and see not just what was destroyed but also what was born.

Even prior to Trump, American democracy was deeply flawed. The moneyed interests were drowning out everyone else. Inequality was reaching record levels. Corruption — legalized bribery through campaign contributions — was the norm. The bottom 90 percent were getting nowhere because the system was rigged against them.

Many of you are now sowing the seeds of fundamental reform.

Whether it's demonstrating as you did two Saturdays ago, appearing at Republican town halls, jamming the Capitol and White House switchboards, generating mountains of emails and letters, protecting the vulnerable in your communities, or going door-to-door for candidates like (New York City's) Zohran Mamdani, your activism is paying off.

The backlash against Trump is growing. His approval rating has sunk to a level not seen since Richard Nixon last sat in the White House, according to the latest Gallup poll.

These are terrible times — the worst I've lived through, and I've lived through some bad ones. (Remember 1968? Nixon's enemies list? Anyone old enough to recall Joe McCarthy's communist witch hunts?)

But as long as we are alive, as long as we are resolved, as long as we are taking action to stop the worst of this, as long as we are trying to make America and the world even a bit better — have no doubt: We will triumph.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

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Opinión de un Invitado:

Reflexión: Estamos ganando.

Son tiempos terribles, sin duda. Pero triunfaremos.

Por Robert Reich

La resistencia se está convirtiendo en un levantamiento.

El sábado 18 de octubre, más de 7 millones de nosotros salimos a las calles para rechazar la dictadura de Trump. Esto representa más del 2% de la población adulta de Estados Unidos.

Estudios históricos sugieren que el 3,5% de una población que participa en una resistencia no violenta sostenida puede derrocar incluso las dictaduras más brutales, como la de Chile bajo Pinochet y la de Serbia bajo Milosevic.

Lo que significa que casi lo logramos.

Otras evidencias de la reacción negativa nos rodean. Siete de las nueve universidades que Trump seleccionó para unirse a su pacto de extorsión —que ofrecía un trato preferencial para fondos federales a cambio de la promesa de apoyar su agenda— lo han rechazado.

La mayoría de los aeropuertos principales se han negado a mostrar el video de propaganda de la secretaria de Seguridad Nacional, Kristi Noem, que ataca a los demócratas por el cierre del gobierno.

Casi todos los medios de comunicación estadounidenses se han negado a firmar el juramento de lealtad mediática del secretario de Defensa, Pete Hegseth.

La destrucción del Ala Este de la Casa Blanca por parte de Trump (tras prometer que no lo haría) y la publicación de un video de IA en el que aparece arrojando excrementos sobre Estados Unidos está preocupando incluso a los trumpistas más fieles.

Creo que las generaciones futuras recordarán esta lacra y verán no solo lo que se destruyó, sino también lo que nació.

Incluso antes de Trump, la democracia estadounidense tenía graves defectos.

Los intereses del dinero eclipsaban a todos los demás. La desigualdad alcanzaba niveles récord.

La corrupción —sobornos legalizados mediante contribuciones de campaña— era la norma. El 90% más pobre no llegaba a ninguna parte porque el sistema estaba amañado en su contra.

Muchos de ustedes están sembrando ahora las semillas de una reforma fundamental.

Ya sea manifestándose como lo hicieron hace dos sábados, apareciendo en asambleas públicas republicanas, interfiriendo en las centralitas del Capitolio y la Casa Blanca, generando montañas de correos electrónicos y cartas, protegiendo a los vulnerables de sus comunidades o apoyando puerta a puerta a candidatos como Zohran Mamdani (de la ciudad de Nueva York), su activismo está dando frutos.

La reacción contra Trump está creciendo. Su índice de aprobación ha caído a un nivel no visto desde la última vez que Richard Nixon ocupó la Casa Blanca, según la última encuesta de Gallup.

Estos son tiempos terribles, los peores que he vivido, y he vivido algunos malos. (¿Recuerdan 1968? ¿La lista de enemigos de Nixon? ¿Alguien con edad suficiente para recordar la caza de brujas comunista de Joe McCarthy?)

Pero mientras estemos vivos, mientras estemos decididos, mientras tomemos medidas para detener lo peor de esto, mientras intentemos mejorar un poco Estados Unidos y el mundo, no tengan duda: triunfaremos.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

¿Tienes una opinión contraria? Escríbenos a info@elcentralmedia.com

Special World's Cultures
Day Of The Dead

Day of the Dead

In pre-Hispanic times, the cult of death was one of the basic elements of the culture. When someone died, they were buried wrapped in a mat, and their relatives would organize a party to guide them on their journey to Mictlán, the world of the dead.

According to a Mexica legend, anyone who mistreated a dog could never cross the deep Apanohuaia River, as neither Xólotl nor his dog Xoloitzcuintle would help them reach Mictlán.

As part of the cult, food that they had enjoyed in their lives was placed in their tomb, with the belief that they might become hungry during their journey.

In the indigenous world, the Day of the Dead was significant because it represented the return journey of the souls to their former home in the world of the living and, thus, to spend time with their relatives. Hence the importance of the food offered to them on the altars set up in their honor, as a way of letting them know that they are expected and that their presence is welcome.

Its origin as a celebration lies in the syncretic harmony between the celebration of Catholic religious rituals brought by the Spanish and the commemoration of the Day of the Dead, which indigenous peoples had practiced since pre-Hispanic times. The ancient Mexica, Mixtec, Texcocan, Zapotec, Tlaxcalan, Totonac, and other indigenous peoples of Mexico, people who transferred the veneration of their dead to the Christian calendar, which coincided with the end of the agricultural cycle of corn, the country's main food crop.

The Day of the Dead celebration takes place

on November 1 and 2, as it is divided into November 1, which corresponds to All Saints' Day, a day dedicated to those who died as infants or children, and November 2, for All Souls' Day, that is, adults. Every year, many families place offerings and altars with the photo of the person they commemorate, decorating the altar with marigold flowers, confetti, sugar skulls, pan de muerto (bread of the dead), mole, or a favorite dish of their family member to whom the offering is dedicated. As in pre-Hispanic times, incense is placed to scent the place. It is believed that the offerings placed on the altar summon a visit from the land of the dead.

In more recent times, people gather in their cities, dress up in costumes with painted skull faces, and hold parades in the streets.

Visits to the cemetery are also common on the last day, as families go to decorate the graves with marigold flowers, gifts, and sugar skulls bearing the name of the deceased. It is customary to clean the tombstone and restore the colors.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Traditional Poetry: Calaveritas

Literary Calaveritas are popular poems written in rhyme that portray the spirited and comical way in which Mexicans mock and defy death, poking fun at friends, politicians, artists, and so on. After all, as the engraver Guadalupe Posada said, "death is democratic, it reaches everyone," which is why there's something for everyone in literary skulls.

My friend and the Dead

Trying not to be noticed
Death was sitting
my unlucky friend
next to her she went to sit.
The catrina in bad mood
feeling she was,
my talkative friend
couldn't contain her chatting,
the catrina wanted to shut her up
but my friend did not stop.
The catrina very angry
ask her to leave there,
but my friend didn't get it
so, the catrina had to take her away.

Abril García Barraza

To continue **Day Of The Dead**

The altar or offering, according to tradition, can range from three levels, not including the floor, to seven levels, and some even have thirteen levels, like the thirteen worlds of Mictlán. It is important to note that this contemporary tradition is a result of the fusion of indigenous myths and colonial Spanish Catholicism.

The celebration of death in Mexico expresses the joy of living through colorful, festive gratitude, filled with as many expressions as possible. Some people question the validity of this tradition's imagery, which seems to belong to a type of magical realism, since today's globalized society has little support for the belief that the dead will come to share the feast. However, the altars and offerings on this day serve to remind Mexicans that there is always something and someone to thank and celebrate.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO
Día de Muertos

Día de muertos

En la época prehispánica el culto a la muerte era uno de los elementos básicos de la cultura, cuando alguien moría era enterrado envuelto en un petate y sus familiares organizaban una fiesta con el fin de guiarlo en su recorrido al Mictlán, el mundo de los muertos.

Según una leyenda mexica, quien hubiera tratado mal a un perro no podría atravesar jamás el profundo río Apanohuaia, pues ni Xólotl ni su perro Xoloitzcuintle lo ayudarían a llegar al Mictlán.

Como parte del culto, en su tumba le colocaban comida que le había agradado en su vida, con la creencia de que podría llegar a sentir hambre durante su tránsito.

En la visión indígena el Día de Muertos tenía relevancia porque implicaba el tránsito de regreso de las ánimas para regresar a donde había sido su casa en el mundo de los vivos y, así, convivir con los familiares, de ahí la importancia del alimento que se les ofrece en los altares puestos en su honor, como forma de hacerles notar que se les espera, que su presencia es grata.

Su origen como celebración se ubica en la armonía sincrética entre la celebración de los rituales religiosos católicos traídos por los españoles y la conmemoración del día de muertos que los indígenas realizaban desde los tiempos prehispánicos; los antiguos mexicas, mixtecas, texcocanos, zapotecas, tlaxcaltecas, totonacas y otros pueblos originarios de México, pueblos que trasladaron la veneración de sus muertos al calendario cristiano, la cual coincidía con el final del ciclo agrícola del maíz, principal cultivo alimentario del país.

La celebración del Día de Muertos se lleva a cabo los días 1 y 2 de noviembre, ya que ésta se divide en el 1 de noviembre que corresponde al día de Todos los Santos, día dedicado a quienes murieron siendo bebés o niños; el día 2 de noviembre para los Fieles Difuntos, es decir, a los adultos.

Cada año muchas familias colocan ofrendas y altares con la foto de a quien conmemoran y decorando el altar con flores de cempasúchil, papel picado, calaveritas de azúcar, pan de muerto, mole o algún platillo que le gustaba a sus familiares a quien va dedicada la ofrenda, y al igual que en tiempos prehispánicos, se coloca incienso para aromatizar el lugar. Se cree que las ofrendas puestas en el altar convocan la visita desde la tierra de los muertos.

En tiempos más recientes, la gente se reúne en sus ciudades, se disfraza con caras pintadas de Calavera (Esqueletos) y tiene desfiles en las calles.

Las visitas al cementerio también son comunes el último día, ya que las familias van a decorar las tumbas con flores de caléndula, regalos y calaveras de azúcar con el nombre del difunto. Es costumbre limpiar la lápida y restaurar los colores de la tumba.

El altar u ofrenda, según dicta la tradición, puede llevar desde tres niveles sin contar el suelo, siete niveles, algunos incluso hacen de trece niveles como los trece mundos del Mictlán. Es importante destacar que esta tradición contemporánea es un resultado del mestizaje entre las creencias de los mitos indígenas y el catolicismo español de la colonia.

La festividad a la muerte en México manifiesta la dicha de vivir a través de la gratitud colorida, festiva y llena de tantas expresiones como es posible. Algunas personas cuestionan la vigencia del imaginario de esta tradición que pareciera pertenecer a un tipo de realismo mágico, ya que actualmente la sociedad globalizada poco sostiene la creencia de que los muertos vendrán a compartir el festín; no obstante, los altares y ofrendas en este día sirven para recordarnos a los mexicanos que siempre hay algo y alguien a quien agradecer-celebrar.

Calaveritas: Poesía tradicional

Las calaveritas literarias son poesías populares escritas en rima que retratan la manera animosa y cómica en que el mexicano se mofa y desafía a la muerte, se burla de amigos, políticos, artistas, etcetera; al fin y al cabo, como dijo el grabador Guadalupe Posada, "la muerte es democrática, a todos alcanza", por eso en las calaveras literarias hay verbena para todos.

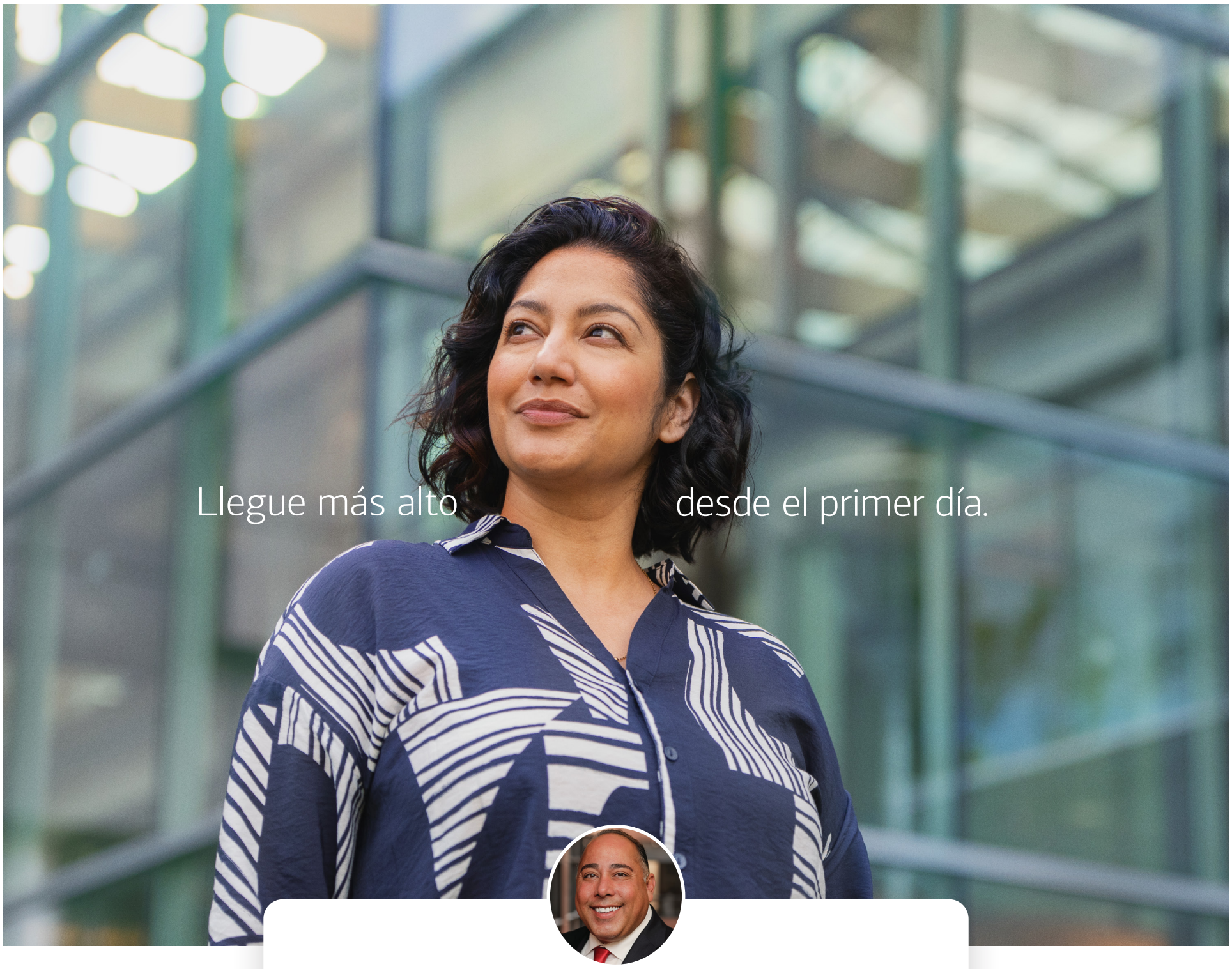
Mi amiga y muerte
Estaba sentada la muerte
tratando no hacerse notar
mi amiga con mala suerte
a su lado se fue a parar.
La catrina andaba amargada,
mi amiga plática sacó,
la catrina quería que se callara
pero mi amiga no paró.
La catrina muy enojada
a irse de ahí la mandó,
pero ella no la pelaba
y a la pobre morir le tocó.

Abril García Barraza

Continuación

Día de Muertos

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News



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